

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION EXCHANGE/JOINT MEETING
SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL AND LONGBOAT KEY CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 14, 2005**

9:00 A. M. to 9:30 A. M. Coffee, Meet and Greet – MacKenzie Hall

9:30 A. M. to 12:00 Noon Trolley Tour of Hurricane Impacts

12:30 P. M. to 3:00 P. M. City Councils Session and Working Lunch

Mayor Harrity called the meeting to order at 12:42 P.M., and welcomed the Longboat City Council.

Members present: Mayor Harrity, Vice Mayor Walsh, Councilman Jennings, Councilmember Workman, Mayor Ronald Johnson, Vice Mayor Joan Webster, Commissioner George Stoll, Commissioner Bob Dawson, Commissioner Lee Rothenberg and Commissioner-Elect Randy Clair. Councilman Brown was excused.

Councilmember Workman gave the Invocation.

Mayor Ronald Johnson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion between City Council members regarding hurricane recovery.

Ms. Zimomra called upon Chief Bill Tomlinson for the following report:

- Education for Council, staff and the public
- Contract with a weather consultant who keeps you up-to-date as a storm approaches
- Evacuation – voluntary and mandatory
- No re-entry time plan – roads had to be cleared before residents could return
- Having limited access to Sanibel made it easier to maintain the Island.
- Damage assessment was done from the air and on the ground.
- Primary task was to open the roads
- Residents were back on the Island after 5 days.
- City issued hurricane passes to residents and qualified contractors

Discussion ensued regarding when residents of Captiva were able to get back to their homes, Sanibel provided hurricane passes were issued to Captiva residents, checkpoint was established at Captiva, everything went through the operation center very successful, representatives from Sanibel attend County workshops and that Sanibel had an excellent communication person who keeps the County apprised of Sanibel's exact needs, Sanibel having no extra equipment but the City would be negotiating additional contracts, i.e., for signs, generators, etc., and Sanibel staff would be attending both the Governor's Hurricane and National Hurricane Conference.

Bruce Dennis, Longboat Key City Manager commented of being very impressed with Sanibel's Hurricane Plan and send eight staff members from the Longboat Key learn from Sanibel.

Discussion ensued regarding how duties were separated between City Council and staff, Sanibel City government evacuating and relocating to reserved space in a local hotel off Island, including City Council Members, staff and their families, hotel lobby used as an information center where residents could talk with staff and council members, town meetings held to answer residents' questions and give residents updates on the progress being made during the cleanup and pictures of the Island were posted, five days before the storm was predicted to hit a hurricane plan review was held with each City Council member, including laws that would be put in place, i.e., no alcohol sales and curfew hours, Sunshine Laws and how these should or could be modified during an emergency, once residents were permitted to return to the Island City Council members distributed welcome back packets, as well as distributing ice and water to residents and talking with residents to try to relieve their stress, Sanibel proposed to hold three hurricane workshops held during 2005, the City's web site was an extremely well received tool, which was accessed approximately 3900 times an hour, \$25,000 being donated by the Community Foundation to assist employees for noninsured losses, an example of the generosity that exists on Sanibel, Council spoke to the communications were unbelievably good and having good quality City employees was very important and PIO officer was hired after the storm occurred.

Lee Rothenberg, Longboat Key asked if special duties were assigned to City Council members.

Discussion ensued regarding Sanibel City Council being non-partisan, they function as a day-to-day policy board and everyone was equal, during an emergency it was better to have paid employees being assigned duties, breach of land was on Captiva and that permits were issued quickly so action could be taken to recover from this breach, Captiva Erosion Control District (CEPD) took action regarding the breach, Corps of Engineers quick to respond, FEMA better coordinated due to the reorganization of Home Land Security, Sanibel completes an annual pre-survey beach profile, employees were cross-trained to backup the City Manager when out of the office, and Directors of various departments assume the responsibilities of City Manager.

Chief Tomlinson explained the steps taken before a hurricane event:

- 5 days prior to the storm – Convene staff members, partners (Library, CHR, Chamber of Commerce), and City Council and start communication process with the public
- 48 hours prior to the storm – voluntary evacuation
- 30 hours prior to the storm – mandatory evacuation

Discussion ensued regarding what Sanibel does if someone refuses to evacuate and Chief Tomlinson noted there was nothing the Police Department could do, major safety issues with allowing residence on the island to soon, holding meetings to keep residents abreast with the most current information help the City maintain control, City Council was always available during meetings, Council spoke directly with residents and were honest about the situation, residents reaction to being delayed to return to Sanibel, advise residents to dispose of perishable items before evacuating, reputable contractors were engaged and listed on the City's webpage, waived building permit fees for a time certain, all major construction projects should be completed by May or June, 2005, to help businesses Council had approved additional special events to be held through May, 2005, dealing with the damage from Hurricane Charley had required the coordination with State and County officials and one of the holes in the Florida system of funding local governments was, if there was devastation of the property base there was not a quick way to switch over to another system and the City would be looking for long-term relief, no problems dealing with FEMA, building inspectors out in neighbors checking with property owners for problems or difficulties, vegetation possibly helped lessened damage to structures, hurricane reserve was \$1 million, which was part of ending year balance, City borrowed \$10 million for hurricane money, match by FEMA 75%, review what FEMA considers emergency work and non-emergency work, the \$10 million would be included in the budget and could be re-paid partially by ad valorem taxes, no structures received 50% damage or more and the 50% rule comes from the property appraisers office

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p. m

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Beck
Recording Secretary